

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00091 311655Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-05 /053 W

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1906

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ALLIANCE PARTY LEADER TO WASHINGTON

1. DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO BELFAST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EUR/NE RONALD WOODS, ALLIANCE PARTY REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE OF A PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY A PARTY LEADER, AND WERE OFFERED HELP IN FACILITATING APPOINTMENTS. PARTY LEADER OLIVER NAPIER HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT KEITH JONES PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 14-17, AND THAT NAPIER HAS WRITTEN SENATORS KENNEDY AND EAGLETON, SPEAKER O'NEILL ASKING FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH STAFF. (JONES OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET THE PRINCIPALS ALSO). JONES IS A MEMBER OF THE BELFAST CITY COUNSEL AND OF THE PARTY EXECUTIVE, AND IS THE PARTY'S SPOKESMAN ON THE ECNOOMY. HE CAN SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY FOR THE PARTY.

2. ALLIANCE IS THE ONLY NONSECTARIAN PARTY OF IMPORTANCE IN NI. IT'S MEMBERSHIP REFLECTS THE HISTORIC MAJORITY-MINORITY BREAKDOWN ALONG CULTURAL-RELIGIOUS-POLITICAL LINES. IT HOLDS STRONGLY TO A REASONED, PEACEFUL APPROACH TO RECONCILING THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT INFORM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00091 311655Z

LEGISLATORS STAFFS OF ALLIANCE'S BONA FIDES, AND SUGGEST THE USEFULNESS OF LISTENING SYMPATHETICALLY TO THE PARTY'S VIEWS, AS EXPRESSED BY JONES. (SENATOR EAGLETON HAD AN EXCELLENT SESSION WITH NAPIER HERE IN EARLY JANUARY.) THE DEPARTMENT OFFER TO RECEIVE JONES AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR/ DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. WE SHALL CABLE JONES' SPECIFIC PLANS AS SOON AS HE FIXES THEM.

STOUT

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NNN

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